

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, 11 January 2021

NOTWITHSTANDING THE PANDEMIC, THE FIFDH ANNOUNCES ITS 19TH EDITION FOR 5-14 MARCH

The 19th edition of the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) will take place from 5th to 14th March 2021, one year after the start of the pandemic. The festival will take place within the constraints of the March health context, whichever it will be, and adapting to it. The FIFDH's team has today unveiled the poster representing this 19th edition, which will give voice to activists and leading personalities, including Angela Davis, Alain Berset and Ai Weiwei.

Based on an image by American photographer Jack Howard, the 2021 FIFDH poster intrigues. «*In this photo, an arrow hits a balloon and this explodes in myriads of lights: this powerful image tells the story of a bursting world whose certainties are punctured into a profound fragility. It also evokes new energies that are being released and new imaginaries in the making. Indeed, this edition of FIFDH intends to question and highlight the many new forms of collective commitment and creation that are emerging everywhere. We can't wait to unveil our upcoming program in the coming weeks,*» says Isabelle Gattiker, Director General and of the Programs.

This poster announces a festival that will be held in all weather. This is not self-evident: given the evolution of the pandemic, all scenarios had to be considered, including a potential cancellation. However, the aim of the Festival is first and foremost to allow the public, activists and filmmakers to meet and debate in the flesh. «*Cancelling would have meant abdicating and contravening the values defended by the Festival. Its key role is to give a voice to human rights defenders and to bring about conversations that have never been as indispensable as they are today. At a time when individual freedoms are receding, the emphasis of human rights is fundamental*», points out Boris Mabillard, Head of Debates at the FIFDH.

SAVE THE DATE

Press Conference

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 11am

Registration and information :

presse@fifdh.org

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A FESTIVAL MORE ESSENTIAL THAN EVER

While it is obviously difficult to predict the situation which will prevail in March, the FIFDH team is working relentlessly to create an ambitious programme that will adapt to whichever healthcare measures will exist at that moment. As Isabelle Gattiker explains: «*Anchored in the present, we are embracing the world with both hands as it stands a year after the beginning of the pandemic. If circumstances prevent us from meeting in person, we will engage in other ways of being together; we will imagine digital, sound or written channels to make the activists' voices resonate and carry high the colors of politically engaged cinema*».

Among the announced guests of this edition, Swiss Federal Councillor Alain Berset will discuss the measures taken to contain the pandemic in the light of fundamental freedoms. Angela Davis, icon of the civil rights movement, and Barbara Hendricks, singer and FIFDH patron, will return to the subject of racism in the United States. Filmmaker and activist Ai Weiwei will present *Coronation*, a stunning documentary film shot clandestinely in Wuhan, China, in the midst of the first months of the pandemic. The complete program of this edition will be unveiled at an online press conference taking place on Tuesday, February 23rd.

ABOUT THE FIFDH

The Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) is the leading international event dedicated to film and human rights. Its 19th edition will take place from 5th to 14th March 2021 and will bring together the voices of filmmakers, activists, artists, journalists, experts and diplomats to confront their points of view with the general public.